

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1411

Honoring the service and commitment of the 111th Fighter Wing,
Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 27, 2010

Ms. SCHWARTZ submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Honoring the service and commitment of the 111th Fighter
Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Whereas the 111th Fighter Wing's roots date back to the establishment of the 103rd Observation Squadron on 27 June 1924, in the sod fields of the Philadelphia Airport;

Whereas on 17 February 1941, the 103rd was ordered to active service, performing antisubmarine patrols off the coast of New England;

Whereas the squadron deployed to the China-Burma-India (CBI) Theater of World War II in 1943, executing support operations for the duration of the war;

Whereas the 391st Bombardment Group (Medium), constituted on 15 January 1943, earned the Distinguished Unit Citation for its service during World War II, per-

forming ground attack missions in France and the Low Countries in advance of the invasion of Normandy, and Germany in support of in and in the aftermath of the Battle of the Bulge;

Whereas in 1946, both the 391st, then redesignated the 111th Bomb group (Light), and the 103rd Squad were designated to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard;

Whereas the 111th Composite Wing was activated in April 1951, performing strategic bombing and reconnaissance missions in support of the United States efforts in the Korean War;

Whereas in 1963, the 111th ended its 39-year history at Philadelphia Airport, and moved into new housing on the north end of the Willow Grove Naval Air Station;

Whereas during the Vietnam War, the 111th conducted reconnaissance and observation missions, helping to coordinate critical communication between ground forces and fighter aircraft;

Whereas in 1995, the newly designated 111th Fighter Wing volunteered for deployment to Kuwait, where they conducted Combat Search and Rescue alert, Kill Box flights over Iraq, Airborne Forward Air Control, and joint training missions in support of Operation Southern Watch;

Whereas 1999, the 111th again deployed to Al Jaber, Kuwait, to support joint combat flight operations for Operation Southern Watch;

Whereas immediately following the attacks of September 11th, the 111th Fighter Wing voluntarily deployed on very short notice to support joint combat operations for Operation Southern Watch and Operation Enduring Freedom;

Whereas between 2002–2003, the wing was the lead unit for short notice, voluntary, out-of-cycle Air Expeditionary Force deployments to Bagram AB, Afghanistan, performing joint combat flight operations with U.S. Army, Special Forces and coalition ground troops despite total ‘black out’ conditions, a substantial number of mines on and around the airfield, extreme weather conditions, and unremitting enemy shelling;

Whereas in 2003, the 111th once again volunteered for deployment to Al Jaber, Kuwait, directly supporting coalition armor forces during the invasion from the Kuwaiti border;

Whereas the 111th Fighter Wing was awarded the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award, with Valor, for voluntarily deploying to austere bases in two separate combat operations within a five-month period;

Whereas the unit was also awarded the Reserve Family Readiness Award in 2003 and the Air National Guard Distinguished Flying Unit Award in 2004;

Whereas in its 86-year history, the wing has flown aircraft that includes the JN–4 Jenny, PT–1 Trusty, BT–1, O–1 Bird Dog, O–2H Skymaster, O–11 Curtiss Falcon, O–38, O–47A, O–47B, O–49 Vigilant, O–52 Owl, O–57 Grasshopper, P434–1, L–4 Grasshopper, L–1B Vigilant, P–39 Airacobra, P–40 Warhawk, B–25 Mitchell, P–38 Lightning, A–26 Invader, B–26 Marauder, B–29 Superfortress, RB–29 Superfortress, F–51 Mustang, T–33 Shooting Star, F–84 Thunderjet, F–94 Starfire, F–89 Scorpion, C–97 Stratofreighter, U–3A Blue Canoe, O–2 Skymaster, OA–37 Dragonfly, OA–10A Thunderbolt II, and the A–10 Thunderbolt II;

Whereas the members of the 111th Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard have served with courage, selflessness, and compassion in every role they have been asked to fulfill, and have earned the respect and gratitude of the citizens of Pennsylvania and all Americans;

Whereas, while the Base Realignment and Closure Commission of 2005 removed the 111th's flying mission, the unit will continue proudly serving the United States through new missions; and

Whereas the ruling of the Base Realignment and Closure Commission of 2005 marks the "End of an Era" for the 111th Fighter Wing at Willow Grove Naval Air Station: Now, therefore, be it

- 1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—
- 2 (1) recognizes the exemplary service of mem-
- 3 bers of the 111th Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania
- 4 Air National Guard; and
- 5 (2) honors and thanks all members of the
- 6 111th Fighter Wing of the Pennsylvania Air Na-
- 7 tional Guard, past and present, for their tremendous
- 8 contributions to the defense and security of the
- 9 United States.

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